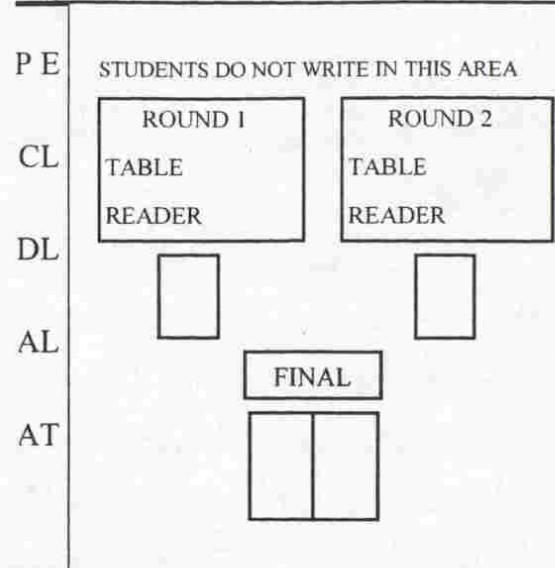


Idaho 9th Grade Direct Writing Assessment

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"Mom, what is that place?" "The homeless shelter" she replied. "But why are all the people there so shabby looking" I persisted. "Because," she turned around and looked at me "they are very poor." This conversation occurred between me and my mom several years ago when I first saw the Homeless Shelter. From that experience I was taught an essential lesson in ~~life~~ life: be thankful for what you have, because there are other people who suffer a lot more than you do. By learning this lesson I have a more positive outlook on life and a more grateful attitude.

~~In this paragraph I will describe my life changing experience. It was several years ago when my family first moved to Idaho when I first witnessed undisguised poverty and suffering. It was a hot sunny day, and my mom and I were driving towards the downtown, when suddenly a squat, antiquated brick building seemed to leap out at me, so out of place it seemed. Around it ~~there~~ loitered half a dozen old men clad in gray rags, smoking cigarettes and talking in low tones. I was confused. Who were these shabby worn-looking men. When I asked my mom, she told me that they were too poor to have nice clothes and own a house. I still didn't understand, if they were so poor~~

why didn't they get a job and work. I didn't realize that not all people have the same opportunities and situations in life.

This situation taught me to ~~that~~ truly understand how much my family has in comparison to others to be thankful for it. As Americans we are accustomed to one of the highest living standards in the world. We get all the food we need, we have shelter, cars, good water, and so many other things that many people in the world can only dream of. It taught me not to judge others for ~~the~~ their financial misfortunes and that it is not merely a matter ~~of~~ of working hard, but if you were lucky enough to get an education a job that pays well.

This experience made me look at life with a more positive and thankful attitude. If I don't get all the presents I want this Christmas, I won't be disappointed because I know how fortunate I really am. Another way this experience changed me is that it fortified my desire to get a good education so I am never in the situation that the people at ~~the~~ the Homeless Shelter are. Lastly, it made me want to help the people who aren't as lucky as I am by volunteering to help them out.

As you can see this experience has made a huge difference in my life and in how I think. It has ~~to~~ taught me to be thankful for all that I have and to feel pity for those less fortunate than me. It has affected my life by ~~not~~ making me a better person and making me look at life with a more positive and grateful perspective. Lastly, it has inspired me to volunteer at the Homeless Shelter and to be generous towards the poor. I think the world would be a much better place if everyone had shared that experience with me.